

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A coin collection system for a gaming machine, comprising:
a coin outlet for dispensing coins;
a coin tray beneath the coin outlet; and
a guiding arrangement including a movable member coupled to the gaming machine and operable to assist in guiding the dispensed coins from one of the coin outlet and the coin tray to a coin collection cup.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the movable member is movable between a disabled position and an enabled position, the movable member permitting the dispensed coins to drop into the coin tray when the member is in the disabled position, the movable member diverting the dispensed coins to a location outside the coin tray when the member is in the enabled position.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the movable member includes a fold-out spout hinged to the gaming machine, the spout being generally vertical when in the disabled position and generally horizontal when in the enabled position.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein the movable member is biased toward the disabled position.
5. The system of claim 2, wherein the movable member includes a slidable spout, the spout being positioned between the coin outlet and the coin tray when the spout is in the enabled position.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the movable member forms at least a portion of the coin tray, and wherein in response to being pressed by the coin collection cup, the member moves inward so that the coins dispensed from the coin outlet are directly captured by the coin collection cup instead of the coin tray.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the movable member includes a hinged concave panel.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the movable member is flexible, and wherein in response to being pressed by the coin collection cup, the member flexes inward so that the coins dispensed from the coin outlet are directly captured by the coin collection cup.
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9. The system of claim 8, wherein the flexible member extends across at least a section of a length of the coin tray, the section being proximate the coin outlet.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the flexible member extends substantially across the length of the coin tray.
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11. The system of claim 6, wherein the movable member includes a sliding panel.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the sliding panel extends across at least a section of a length of the coin tray, the section being proximate the coin outlet.
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13. The system of claim 12, wherein the sliding panel extends substantially across the length of the coin tray.
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14. The system of claim 1, wherein the movable member forms at least a portion of the coin tray and is movable between a disabled position and an enabled position, the movable member maintaining the dispensed coins in the coin tray when the member is in the disabled position, the movable member helping to guide the coins out of the coin tray when the member is in the enabled position.
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15. The system of claim 14, wherein the movable member is a hinged access panel that closes at least one wall of the coin tray when the panel is in the disabled position and opens the at least one wall of the coin tray when the panel is in the enabled position.
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16. The system of claim 15, wherein the hinged access panel is proximate the coin outlet.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein the hinged access panel is rotated downward to switch from the disabled position to the enabled position.
- 5 18. The system of claim 15, wherein the hinged access panel is rotated upward to switch from the disabled position to the enabled position.
19. The system of claim 15, wherein the hinged access panel forms a hole in the at least one wall of the coin tray when the panel is in the enabled position.
- 10 20. The system of claim 14, wherein the movable member is a sliding access panel that closes at least one wall of the coin tray when the panel is in the disabled position and opens the at least one wall of the coin tray when the panel is in the enabled position.
- 15 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the guiding arrangement includes a ramp formed by the coin tray beneath the coin outlet and guiding the dispensed coins through an opening in the at least one wall of the coin tray when the panel is in the enabled position.
- 20 22. The system of claim 14, wherein the movable member is biased toward the disabled position.
23. The system of claim 1, wherein the movable member forms at least a portion
25 of the coin tray and is movable between a disabled position and an enabled position, the movable member maintaining the dispensed coins in the coin tray when the member is in the disabled position, the movable member permitting the coins dispensed from the coin outlet to be directly captured by the coin collection cup when the member is in the enabled position.
- 30 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the movable member includes a cup supporting panel for holding the coin collection cup beneath the coin outlet when the member is in the enabled position.

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25. The system of claim 24, wherein the cup supporting panel is vertically slidable between the disabled position and the enabled position.

26. The system of claim 14, wherein the movable member includes the coin tray, the coin tray being hinged for movement between an upper position corresponding to the disabled position and a forward-tilting position corresponding to the enabled position, the coin tray including a front wall extended in height to carry an artwork panel and to assist in guiding the dispensed coins from the coin tray into the coin collection cup when the coin tray is in the forward-tilting position.

27. The system of claim 1, wherein the guiding arrangement includes an exit opening in one end of the coin tray, the movable member including a sliding bar for sweeping coins in the coin tray through the exit opening and into the coin collection cup when the cup is held adjacent to the exit opening.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the sliding bar is slidably anchored to the coin tray for movement between a first position to one side of both the exit opening and the coin outlet and a second position adjacent to the exit opening.

29. A coin collection system for a gaming machine, comprising:
a coin outlet for dispensing coins;
a coin tray beneath the coin outlet; and
a guiding member positioned proximate to the coin outlet and operable to divert the dispensed coins away from the coin tray and into a coin collection cup.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the guiding member includes a spout hooked to the gaming machine beneath the coin outlet and extending over the coin tray.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the spout includes a first end and a second end, the first end being hooked to the gaming machine, the second end being located at the coin collection cup.

32. The system of claim 29, wherein the guiding member is detachably coupled to the gaming machine.

5 33. The system of claim 29, wherein the guiding member is coupled to the coin collection cup.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the guiding member is integrally formed with the coin collection cup.

10 35. The system of claim 33, wherein the guiding member includes a spout extending over the coin tray and having one end beneath the coin outlet.

15 36. A coin collection system for a gaming machine, comprising:
a coin outlet for dispensing coins;
a coin tray beneath the coin outlet; and
a mechanical element for holding a coin collection cup in front of the coin tray
so that the coins dispensed into the coin tray can be scooped into the
held coin collection cup.

20 37. The system of claim 36, wherein the mechanical element includes a hook formed by a front wall of the coin tray, the coin collection cup being hooked to the coin tray via the hook.

25 38. The system of claim 36, wherein the coin collection cup is hooked to the coin tray via the mechanical element.

30 39. A coin collection system for a gaming machine, comprising:
a release bar;
a coin outlet, proximate the release bar, for dispensing coins into a coin
collection cup positioned beneath the coin outlet in response to
actuation of the release bar by the coin collection cup.

40. The system of claim 39, further including a coin tray beneath the coin outlet.

41. The system of claim 39, wherein the release bar extends from the coin outlet.

5 42. The system of claim 40, wherein the release bar is formed by a portion of the coin tray.

43. The system of claim 39, wherein the release bar is actuated by pressing the coin collection cup against the release bar.

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44. The system of claim 39, further including a collection chamber, proximate the coin outlet, for collecting the coins prior to being dispensed from the coin outlet.

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45. A method of dispensing coins from a coin outlet of a gaming machine, the gaming machine including a release bar proximate the coin outlet, the method comprising:

receiving a coin collection cup beneath the coin outlet; and

in response to actuation of the release bar, dispensing the coins from the coin outlet and into the coin collection cup.

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46. The method of claim 45, wherein the step of dispensing the coins occurs in response to the release bar being pressed with the coin collection cup.

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47. The method of claim 45, further including collecting the coins in a collection chamber proximate the coin outlet prior to dispensing the coins from the coin outlet.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the collection chamber is transparent or translucent.

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49. A method of collecting coins dispensed from a coin outlet of a gaming machine, the gaming machine including a coin tray beneath the coin outlet, the method comprising:

~~obtaining, from a gaming establishment, a coin collection cup sized to sit in
the coin tray without being held in place by a player;
placing the coin collection cup within the coin tray beneath the coin outlet;
collecting the dispensed coins in the coin collection cup placed within the coin
tray; and
removing the coin collection cup from the coin tray.~~

50. The method of claim 49, wherein the coin collection cup is elongated.

10 51. The method of claim 50, wherein the coin collection cup is generally rectangular in shape and includes opposing front and back walls spaced by a width, the width being less than a width of the coin tray.

~~52. The method of claim 49, wherein the coin collection cup includes a handle~~

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